Does United Airlines Charge a Fee to Change My Flight in 2026?

Complete fee breakdown for changing a United Airlines flight in 2026 -- which fares are fee-free, when fare difference applies, same-day change costs, and how to avoid paying more than necessary.

Call Now: 1-855-265-2296

Does United Airlines Still Charge a Change Fee in 2026?

No -- United Airlines permanently eliminated change fees on standard Economy, Premium Economy, Business, and First Class domestic and international tickets. This change, implemented in 2020-2021, remains in effect in 2026. The only fare class that cannot be changed is Basic Economy. However, 'no change fee' does not mean 'free.' You may still owe a fare difference if the new flight is priced higher than your original ticket. Understanding the distinction between change fees and fare differences is critical to accurately estimating your total cost. Call **1-855-265-2296** for an instant fee assessment on your specific ticket.

1-855-265-2296 -- No change fee. But fare difference may apply. Call to check your exact cost.

What Is the Difference Between a Change Fee and a Fare Difference?

A **change fee** was a flat penalty charged by the airline simply for making any modification to your booking -- typically $150-$200 per change regardless of the new flight price. United Airlines has eliminated this fee. A **fare difference** is the gap between what you originally paid and what the new flight costs at the time you make the change. If your original ticket was $300 and the new flight is $400, you pay $100 fare difference -- but zero change fee. If the new flight costs $250, you owe nothing and receive a $50 travel credit. The fare difference is not a penalty -- it is simply the market price adjustment.

1-855-265-2296 -- Change fee = $0. Fare difference = market price gap. Call to check yours.

How Much Does Same-Day Flight Change Cost on United Airlines?

United Airlines offers two same-day change options with different costs. **Same-Day Standby** is completely free on all fare classes including Basic Economy. You are placed on a waitlist and board a different same-day departure if a seat opens. No cost, but no guarantee. **Same-Day Confirmed Change** guarantees you a seat on a specific different flight departing the same day. This costs $75. However, free for Premier Platinum and above receive same-day confirmed changes for free. If you are not sure which option to choose, call **1-855-265-2296** -- the agent can check seat availability on the next departure and recommend whether standby is likely to work or whether a confirmed change is worth the cost.

1-855-265-2296 -- Same-day standby = free. Confirmed = $75. Call to check seat availability.

How Much Could Changing My United Airlines Flight Actually Cost in Total?

Scenario	Change Fee	Fare Difference	Same-Day Fee	Total Possible Cost
Change to same-priced flight	$0	$0	N/A	$0
Change to cheaper flight	$0	$0 (get credit)	N/A	$0 (you save money)
Change to pricier flight	$0	$50-$400+	N/A	$50-$400+
Same-day standby	$0	$0	$0	$0
Same-day confirmed	$0	$0	$75	$75
Same-day confirmed (Premier 1K)	$0	$0	$0	$0
Basic Economy -- cannot change	N/A	N/A	N/A	Must cancel (may lose full fare)

1-855-265-2296 -- Which scenario is yours? Call to get the exact number.

How Can I Minimize the Cost of Changing My Flight?

→ **Check fare differences across multiple dates:** Call **1-855-265-2296** and ask the agent to compare fares on 3-5 dates around your preferred travel day. Tuesday and Wednesday are typically 15-25% cheaper.

→ **Use same-day standby instead of confirmed change:** Standby is free. If a seat opens, you pay nothing.

→ **Change early:** Fare differences tend to grow as the departure date approaches. Changing 2 weeks out is usually cheaper than changing 2 days out.

→ **Use MileagePlus status:** Premier 1K members get free same-day confirmed changes and fare difference waivers.

→ **Watch for weather waivers:** When United Airlines issues a waiver, changes are free with no fare difference.

→ **Check if your credit card offers trip change coverage:** Some premium cards reimburse fare differences.

1-855-265-2296 -- Want the cheapest change? Call -- the agent finds the lowest-cost option.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a fee to change United Airlines flights?
A: No change fee on Economy+. Basic Economy cannot be changed. Fare difference may apply. Call **1-855-265-2296**.

1-855-265-2296 -- Call 1-855-265-2296 for your cost breakdown.

Q: What if I cannot afford the fare difference?
A: Ask about same-day standby (free), change to a cheaper date, or request a travel credit and rebook later. Call **1-855-265-2296**.

1-855-265-2296 -- Call 1-855-265-2296 for your cost breakdown.

Q: Do MileagePlus members pay less?
A: Premier 1K members get free confirmed same-day changes and fare waivers. Call **1-855-265-2296**.

1-855-265-2296 -- Call 1-855-265-2296 for your cost breakdown.

Q: Are there hidden fees?
A: No hidden fees. Change fee = $0. Fare difference is transparent. Call **1-855-265-2296** to see exact numbers before committing.

1-855-265-2296 -- Call 1-855-265-2296 for your cost breakdown.

Q: What about international flights?
A: Same rules -- no change fee, fare difference applies. International fare differences tend to be larger. Call **1-855-265-2296**.

1-855-265-2296 -- Call 1-855-265-2296 for your cost breakdown.

Call **1-855-265-2296** now for a zero-obligation fare check before changing your flight.

Need to Change Your United Airlines Flight? Call Now.

1-855-265-2296

Date Changes | Time Changes | Destination Changes | Same-Day Standby | Upgrades | Name Corrections

✔ Direct agent access | Available 24/7 | No change fees on most fares ✔

For informational purposes only. United Airlines policies subject to change. Phone 1-855-265-2296 connects to a travel assistance service. Confirm policies directly with United Airlines.